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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-01

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FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

IN AN EDITORIAL ON THE MAYAGUEZ RECAPTURE, ENTITLED "AB BIT OF LIFE", THE BULLETIN (CONSERVATIVE) OF MAY 15 COMMENTS:

THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT IS ALL OVER. AMERICAN MARINES HAVE FREED THE SHIP FOLLOWING THE PIRATICAL ACT OF THE CAMBODIANS. SWIFT, DETERMINED ACTION WAS THE REASON THAT LED TO THE IMMEDIATE FREEDOM OF THE TANKER. AT LEAST, ONE HAS SEEN A BIT OF LIFE IN WHAT HAS FAR TOO LONG APPEARED A UNITED STATES SAPPED OF ENERGY AND INITIATIVE .
IT WAS AT FIRST THOUGHT THAT THE MAYAGUEZ WOULD SUFFER THE SAME FATE OF THE PUEBLO, THE SPY SHIP CAPTURED BY THE NORTH KOREANS IN TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE COMPARISON OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT STAND, BUT THE KHMER ROUGE, PERHAPS INEBRIATED BY THEIR TRIUMPH IN THE CIVIL WAR IN THEIR COUNTRY, THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD REPEAT THE PUEBLO INCIDENT. LUCKILY, THIS TIME, THE MAJORITY OF SANE OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES WAS BEHIND THE PRESIDENT, AND THE STARRYEYED LIBERALS WHO FEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DEFENDING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS DID NOT HAVE THE TIME TO MUSTER FORCES AND RALLY THE GULLIBLE INTO PROTEST MARCHES.

IT MAY BE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD BARED ITS TEETH WITH A SMALL COUNTRY, YET THE WORLD WOULD HAVE HAD TO TELL A DIFFERENT STORY TODAY IF THE SAME STRONG ATTITUDE WAS TAKEN IN SOUTH VIETNAM - NOW SAFELY UNDER HANOI'S MANTLE. BUT THAT IS NOW A BITTER EXPERIENCE,
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RELEGATED TO HISTORY. THE UNITED STATES MUST LIVE TODAY, AND LOOK

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TOWARDS THE FUTURE. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A WORLD POWER ARE GREAT, AND THERE CAN BE NO ABDICATION OF THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES. IF THAT WERE TO BE THE CASE, THE END OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE A MATTER OF LESS THAN A DECADE.

THE UNITED STATES THAT HAS POURED IMMENSE SUMS OF MONEY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHATEVER THE CHARGES THAT MAY BE MADE IN OTHER SPHERES CAN STILL LEAD THE FREE LOVING PEOPLES, WITHOUT HAVING TO SACRIFICE ANYONE OR ANYTHING. THE ACT OF PIRACY ON THE MAYAGUEZ IS A CASE IN POINT. NOT ALL INTERNATIONAL INCIDENTS ARE SETTLED THIS WAY, BUT THE POWER IS THERE - IF THE WILL BACKS THE USE OF THAT POWER. UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY MUST HAVE LEARNED THAT THE DRAGGING OF FEET, IN THE HOPE OF BETTER TIMES, OF CHANGED ATTITUDES DOES NOT EXIST AMONGST THE BRIGANDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREANA.

SURELY IT DOES NOT REQUIRE A TREMENDOUS MENTAL EFFORT TO SEE THROUGH ALL THIS. PERHAPS THE RESPONSE TO THE CAMBODIAN ACTION SHOULD LIFT UP THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO TILL BELIEVE THAT THE GREAT DEMOCRACY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IS NOT THE SOFT, SQUEAKY PAPER TIGER ITS OPPONENTS HAVE SO REPEATEDLY BELLOWED IT IS.
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